

The Complete Persepolis PDF (Limited Copy)

Marjane Satrapi



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The Complete Persepolis Summary

"A Resilient Journey Through Revolution and Self-Discovery."

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About the book

In "The Complete Persepolis", Marjane Satrapi masterfully weaves a poignant tapestry of memory, resistance, and identity that unveils the turbulent history of Iran through the candid eyes of a young girl navigating a world teetering between war and peace. This graphic memoir transcends mere illustration to offer readers a deeply immersive journey into Satrapi's life as she grapples with the clash of tradition and modernity, the jarring evolution from innocence to awareness, and the poignant realization of self amidst political upheaval. Delicate yet boldly candid, Persepolis invites readers to witness the universal struggles of resilience and belonging, challenging preconceived notions while celebrating the indomitable spirit of youth against the backdrop of a rapidly changing world. Embark on this compelling visual odyssey and uncover a profoundly touching narrative that connects personal storytelling with an unflinching portrayal of historical truth.

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About the author

Marjane Satrapi, an Iranian-born French graphic novelist, illustrator, and filmmaker, is renowned for her poignant and compelling works that explore the intricacies of cultural identity, politics, and personal freedom. Born on November 22, 1969, in Rasht, Iran, Satrapi grew up during the Islamic Revolution, a time of immense change and upheaval in her homeland. Her unique ability to craft stories through a blend of vivid illustrations and deeply personal narratives has earned her international acclaim, particularly with her autobiographical graphic novel "Persepolis." After moving to Europe in her teens, she pursued a career in the arts, quickly establishing herself as a potent voice in contemporary graphic literature. Satrapi's work deftly combines humor, tragedy, and personal reflection, offering readers insightful glimpses into her life and the broader Iranian experience, allowing Western audiences an authentic perspective on the nuances of her culture and history.

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Chapter 1 Summary:

Introduction to Persepolis by Marjane Satrapi: An Overview

Marjane Satrapi's "Persepolis" journeys through the rich tapestry of Iran's history, culture, and politics, offering a deeply personal narrative set against a backdrop of historical milestones. Beginning in the second millennium B.C., the book traces the emergence of the Iranian plateau, the homeland of Indo-European settlers and the birthplace of Iranian civilization. These settlers, known as Aryans, laid the foundation for the Medes and the Persians, the latter of whom established one of the ancient world's vastest empires under Cyrus the Great in the sixth century B.C. Despite various invasions—from Alexander the Great, Arabs, to Mongols—Persian culture remained resilient, absorbing the invaders into its fold and enduring as a cultural force.

Fast forward to the 20th century, Iran navigated socio-political transformations under Reza Shah, who endeavored to modernize and westernize the nation. The discovery of oil wealth attracted significant Western influence, notably from Great Britain. However, during World War II, Iran's refusal to align with the Allies led to an invasion and the exile of Reza Shah. His son, Mohammad Reza Pahlavi, assumed power amidst these tumultuous events. The early 1950s saw Prime Minister Mohammed

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Mossadeq nationalize the oil industry, provoking economic retaliation from Britain and a CIA-assisted coup that reinstated the Shah after a brief exile.

The Shah's reign continued until the Islamic Revolution of 1979, forcing him into exile and reshaping Iran's global image, often inaccurately associated solely with fundamentalism and terrorism. Marjane Satrapi's motivation to pen "Persepolis" emerges from her desire to dispel these myths and highlight the resilience of Iran's culture and its people, particularly those who suffered under oppressive regimes or were forced to flee.

Satrapi underscores a critical message: while forgiveness is possible, forgetting the sacrifices and struggles endured by countless Iranians is not. Through "Persepolis," she hopes to shed light on the complexities of Iranian identity and history, offering a counter-narrative to dominant stereotypes.

This edition of "Persepolis" has been translated and supervised by a dedicated team, ensuring that the essence of Satrapi's story resonates with international audiences. Originally published in two volumes, this comprehensive edition integrates her work into a singular, compelling narrative that speaks to universal themes of freedom, resilience, and identity.

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Satrapi extends her gratitude to several contributors, including translators Mattias Ripa and Blake Ferris, and others who supported the translation and publication process. The persistence of Iranian culture, the heroism of its people, and Satrapi's personal experiences are woven throughout this poignant memoir, offering an authentic and enlightening perspective on a nation too often misunderstood.

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Critical Thinking

Key Point: Resilience of Culture Amidst Adversity

Critical Interpretation: Imagine a world where challenges are not merely obstacles but stepping stones—an opportunity for growth, adaptation, and preservation. "Persepolis" reminds you of the incredible resilience that lies within human spirit and cultural identity. As you witness the tenacity of Iranian culture, enduring invasions and political upheaval while maintaining its authenticity and richness, you're inspired to see your own life's hurdles through a different lens. This story illustrates that, like the Persians absorbing their invaders and thriving through centuries, you too can turn adversities into a narrative of fortitude and hope, defining rather than being defined by them. Embrace and preserve what makes you authentic, understanding that your spirit and identity can remain unwavering even amidst the fiercest storms.

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Chapter 2 Summary:

In "Persepolis," Marjane Satrapi weaves a personal narrative that draws from the complex and rich history of Iran, providing readers with a nuanced understanding of her homeland beyond the stereotypes often associated with it. The introduction begins in the second millennium B.C., recounting the ancient origins of Iran, known as "Aryana Vaejo," the land of the Aryans. The Indo-European tribes that settled here eventually evolved into the Medes and Persians. Cyrus the Great, in the sixth century B.C., established the Persian Empire, one of the world's largest ancient empires.

Iran's strategic location and wealth have historically attracted numerous invaders, including Alexander the Great and various Arab, Turkish, and Mongolian forces. Despite these invasions, Persian culture and language remained resilient, often assimilating the conquerors into its fold. By the 20th century, Iran experienced significant upheaval. Reza Shah aimed to modernize the country, but the discovery of oil attracted Western influences, prominently from Britain. During WWII, Reza Shah's neutral stance led to the Allied forces occupying Iran, culminating in his exile and succession by his son, Mohammad Reza Pahlavi, the Shah.

Political tension peaked in 1951 when Prime Minister Mohammed Mossadeq nationalized the Iranian oil industry, prompting a British-led embargo and a subsequent coup by the CIA and British intelligence in 1953,

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restoring the Shah's power. His reign lasted until 1979 when the Islamic revolution forced him to flee. Since then, international perceptions of Iran have skewed toward associations with extremism, overshadowing its rich cultural legacy.

Satrapı writes "Persepolis" to counter these misconceptions, emphasizing that the actions of a few extremists do not define the nation's essence. The narrative honors those who suffered under repressive regimes, fought in wars, or were exiled in pursuit of freedom. Satrapı underscores the importance of remembering Iran's true spirit and diverse history. The introduction concludes with credits and acknowledgments, highlighting the translation efforts and contributors to the book's publication.

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Critical Thinking

Key Point: Resilience of Persian Culture

Critical Interpretation: In 'The Complete Persepolis,' Marjane Satrapi highlights the enduring resilience of Persian culture despite centuries of invasions and external pressures. Imagine walking a path where every stride brings challenges from foreign intruders, yet you remain unyielded - embracing the lessons and enriching your identity with each interaction. Just as Persia's heritage absorbed elements from its conquerors, you too can transform adversities into strengths. Let this cultural tenacity inspire you to protect your core values, adapt to new circumstances, and continuously evolve without losing essence. Stand firm in your authenticity, for resilience, like the Persian culture, can not only withstand trials but mold them into the fabric of a richer, deeper existence.

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Chapter 3 Summary:

Introduction

The book "Persepolis" by Marjane Satrapi is a graphic memoir that captures the complex history and culture of Iran, beginning from the time of ancient civilization through modern political upheavals. In the second millennium B.C., the region known today as Iran was home to the Elamites and later saw the arrival of Indo-European settlers who would become known as the Medes and Persians. The area was named "Iran," derived from "Aryana Vaejo," meaning "the origin of the Aryans." These early peoples laid the groundwork for future Iranian civilization.

The Medes established the first Iranian nation in the 7th century B.C., only to be overtaken by Cyrus the Great, who founded the vast Persian Empire in the 6th century B.C. Known as Persia until 1935, the country has a history marked by invasions from figures like Alexander the Great and various conquerors from neighboring regions. Despite these invasions, Persian culture and language thrived, often assimilating the conquerors into their own rich traditions.

The 20th century marked a significant turning point as Iran began to modernize under Reza Shah, who emphasized Westernization. This era also

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introduced the discovery of oil, bringing economic interest and influence from Western countries, especially Great Britain. During WWII, Iran declared neutrality under Reza Shah, but Allied forces invaded, resulting in his exile. His son, Mohammad Reza Pahlavi, ascended to the throne, only to face challenges such as the 1951 nationalization of the oil industry by Prime Minister Mohammed Mossadeq. This act led to a British-imposed oil embargo and a CIA-backed coup in 1953, restoring the Shah's power.

The Shah's reign continued until his eventual ousting during the Islamic Revolution of 1979, shifting the global narrative around Iran to one dominated by themes of fundamentalism and extremism. However, Marjane Satrapi, having spent much of her life in Iran, aims to present a more nuanced perspective. Through "Persepolis," she seeks to highlight the resilience of Iranian culture and remember those who suffered and fought for freedom amid political turmoil. This memoir strives to ensure the richness of Iranian history is not overshadowed by the actions of a few extremists, advocating for understanding and remembrance of the nation's true story.

Satrapi also credits and thanks those who contributed to the creation and translation of "Persepolis," ensuring its reach to a global audience. The memoir's success rests in its evocative storytelling, illustrating that while histories can bear scars of conflict and oppression, they also celebrate endurance and cultural strength.

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Chapter 4:

In the introduction of "Persepolis," Marjane Satrapi provides a sweeping overview of Iran's historical and cultural transformation, contextualizing the backdrop of her personal narrative. The tale begins in the second millennium B.C. when a group of Indo-European nomads settled in the vast Iranian plateau, a land that came to be known as Iran. The term "Iran" is derived from "Aryana Vaejo," meaning "the origin of the Aryans." These early settlers evolved into the Medes and Persians, key players in establishing the region's formidable presence. By the seventh century B.C., the Medes had founded the first Iranian nation, only to be overtaken by Cyrus the Great, who established the Persian Empire—an empire that became one of the largest in the ancient world. Despite numerous invasions by Greeks, Arabs, Turks, and Mongols, Persian language and culture proved resilient, effectively absorbing these external forces.

The 20th century marked another pivotal chapter, with a shift toward modernization and Westernization under Reza Shah. This era introduced two significant influences: the discovery of oil and consequential Western involvement, notably by Great Britain. During World War II, refusing to ally against Germany led to an Allied invasion and Shah's exile. His son, Mohammad Reza Pahlavi (the Shah), ascended the throne thereafter. In 1951, a bold move by Prime Minister Mohammed Mossadeq to nationalize the oil industry prompted a crisis, leading to a CIA-backed coup in 1953 that



reinstated the Shah's power. The Shah remained until 1979 when the Islamic Revolution forced his departure.

Satrapi's narrative challenges the monolithic portrayal of Iran associated with extremism and terrorism. Having lived through significant parts of

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Chapter 5 Summary:

Introduction to Persepolis by Marjane Satrapi

Marjane Satrapi provides a compelling overview of Iran's rich history and complex socio-political landscape in the introduction to her graphic memoir, "Persepolis." The roots of Iranian civilization trace back to the second millennium B.C., with the Elam nation flourishing alongside Babylon. The plateau, now known as Iran, gained its name from the Indo-European settlers called the Aryans, specifically "Aryana Vaejo," meaning "the origin of the Aryans." This region became home to the Medes and Persians—two pivotal cultures that would shape its history. By the seventh century B.C., the Medes had established the first Iranian nation, only for it to be overtaken by Cyrus the Great, founder of the expansive Persian Empire in the sixth century B.C.

Throughout history, Iran, formerly known as Persia (a term used until Reza Shah's decree in 1935), has been a magnet for invasions due to its wealth and strategic location. From Alexander the Great to Arab, Turkish, and Mongolian conquests, many sought to dominate this region. Despite these invasions, Persian culture and language proved resilient, often assimilating or influencing the conquerors more than being transformed by them.

The 20th century marked significant changes for Iran as Reza Shah

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embarked on modernization and westernization, discovering oil—a new source of wealth that attracted substantial Western interest and influence, especially from Great Britain. During World War II, the Allies pressured Reza Shah to support them against Germany. His preference for neutrality and German sympathies led to his exile, with his son, Mohammad Reza Pahlavi, succeeding him as the Shah of Iran.

In 1951, under Prime Minister Mohammed Mossadeq, Iran's oil industry was nationalized, prompting a British-led embargo and a CIA-orchestrated coup in 1953, reinstating the Shah's power until his ousting during the 1979 Islamic Revolution. This event shifted the global narrative on Iran towards associations with fundamentalism and terrorism. However, Satrapi, having lived much of her life in Iran, challenges these stereotypes, emphasizing the importance of remembering those who suffered under oppressive regimes or fought for freedom.

"Persepolis" is her response, an effort to avoid broad judgments about Iran based on the actions of a few extremists and to commemorate a nation and its people beyond its political turbulence. Satrapi underscores the importance of acknowledging history's complexities, teaching us to forgive—but crucially, not forget—the sacrifices and aspirations of the Iranian people.

A Note on Production

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The translation of the first part of "Persepolis" was managed by Mattias Ripa, and Blake Ferris handled the second part, with oversight by Marjane Satrapi and Carol Bernstein. The lettering was executed by Celine Merrien and Eve Deluze. Satrapi expresses gratitude to several individuals and organizations for their support and contributions to bringing "Persepolis" into the world, ensuring its historical and personal narratives reach a wider audience.

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Chapter 6 Summary:

To My Parents

Introduction

The story of Iran begins in the second millennium B.C., featuring early civilizations like the Elamites alongside Babylon. It was during this era that Indo-European settlers coined the name "Iran," deriving from "Aryana Vaejo," meaning "the origin of the Aryans." These settlers were semi-nomadic people, and their successors, the Medes and Persians, significantly shaped the region's history. The Medes established the first Iranian nation in the seventh century B.C., only to be conquered by Cyrus the Great, who founded the expansive Persian Empire in the sixth century B.C. This empire became one of the ancient world's largest, showcasing the resilience and cultural integration of Persian society despite numerous invasions by figures like Alexander the Great and various Arab, Turkish, and Mongolian forces. These invaders often assimilated into Iran's rich Persian culture.

In the twentieth century, Reza Shah embarked on a mission to modernize and Westernize Iran, especially with the discovery of oil, which attracted

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further foreign interest and intervention, particularly from Great Britain. Despite declaring Iran a neutral zone during World War II, Reza Shah faced occupation by the Allies, leading to his exile. His successor and son, Mohammad Reza Pahlavi, or the Shah, witnessed significant upheaval. In 1951, Prime Minister Mohammed Mossadeq nationalized Iran's oil industry, inciting a British-led embargo and a subsequent 1953 coup orchestrated by the CIA with British support. This coup resulted in Mossadeq's overthrow and the Shah's reinstatement, who remained in power until the 1979 Islamic Revolution, forcing him to flee.

Since the revolution, Iran's image has been marred by associations with extremism and terrorism. As an Iranian deeply familiar with her homeland's true nature, Marjane Satrapi emphasizes that such perceptions misrepresent Iran's rich culture and history. Her work, "Persepolis," strives to shatter these stereotypes, honoring Iranians who have suffered or perished defending freedom, during wartime, or under oppressive regimes. Satrapi insists on remembrance and forgiveness without forgetting past injustices. This motivation underpins her narrative, which is crafted to highlight a broader, diverse, and more authentic Iranian identity.

-- Marjane Satrapi, Paris, September 2002

Credits and Thanks

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The translation of the first part of "Persepolis" was provided by Mattias Ripa, with the second part translated by Blake Ferris under the supervision of Satrapi herself and Carol Bernstein. Lettering was done by Celine Merrien and Eve Deluze. Satrapi extends her gratitude to Anjali Singh, L'Association, and numerous others for their contributions. The text, originally published in two volumes, was made available in the U.S. by Pantheon Books and in Canada by Random House. The story is more than a simple narrative; it's a tribute to Iran's enduring spirit and cultural richness.

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Chapter 7 Summary:

Introduction Summary:

The introduction of "Persepolis" by Marjane Satrapi provides a historical and personal context for the graphic memoir set against the backdrop of Iran's rich, yet tumultuous history. The narrative begins by tracing the origin of modern-day Iran to the second millennium B.C., when Indo-European tribes named the "Aryans" settled on the Iranian plateau. Over centuries, these tribes evolved into the Medes and Persians, with Cyrus the Great establishing the vast Persian Empire in the sixth century B.C.

Iran's strategic location and wealth made it a target for various invasions throughout history, including those by Alexander the Great, the Arabs, Turks, and Mongols. Despite these invasions, Persian culture and language remained resilient, often assimilating its conquerors. In the 20th century, Reza Shah sought to modernize and westernize Iran, but the discovery of oil attracted Western, particularly British, involvement. During World War II, Reza Shah's sympathies for Germany led to an Allied occupation of Iran, forcing him into exile and placing his son, Mohammad Reza Pahlavi, on the throne.

A significant turning point came in 1951, when Prime Minister Mohammed

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Mossadeq nationalized the oil industry, prompting a British-led embargo and, in 1953, a CIA-orchestrated coup that restored the Shah's power. The Shah's reign continued until 1979, when the Islamic Revolution prompted by widespread discontent led to his exile. Following this, Iran became associated largely with notions of fundamentalism and extremism.

Marjane Satrapi, the author, who spent much of her life in Iran, challenges these stereotypes with "Persepolis." She emphasizes that her work is a tribute to those who suffered or perished under oppressive regimes, defending freedom and enduring foreign conflict. Her memoir seeks to provide a more nuanced understanding of Iran beyond the actions of a radical few, preserving the memories of those who fought for their homeland's freedom. Satrapi, writing from Paris in September 2002, underscores the importance of remembering the past as a vital step towards understanding and potentially forgiving it, emphasizing that her story is one of personal and national resilience.

Credits & Thanks Summary:

Translations of "Persepolis" were overseen by Mattias Ripa and Blake Ferris, with supervision by Satrapi and Carol Bernstein. The lettering contributions were made by Celine Merrien and Eve Deluze. Satrapi's acknowledgments include Anjali Singh, L'Association, and several artists



and collaborators. The English translations were published in the United States by Pantheon Books and in Canada by Random House of Canada. The cited trademarks and Library of Congress data establish the legal context for the work's U.S. and Canadian publications.

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Critical Thinking

Key Point: The Resilience of Iranian Culture

Critical Interpretation: When you uncover the depth and durability of Persian culture, you realize that true resilience lies in the unwavering spirit and adaptability of a people. This chapter beautifully illustrates how, despite being conquered time and again, Iran not only preserved its cultural identity but also influenced its invaders. In your journey through life, whether facing personal setbacks or societal challenges, remember that just like the Iranians who assimilated their conquerors' elements, you too can transform adversities into strengths, profoundly shaping the world around you.

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Chapter 8:

Introduction to Persepolis: A Historical Overview of Iran

The introduction to Marjane Satrapi's "Persepolis" provides a rich historical context for understanding the complexities of Iran's past and its portrayal in the book. The narrative starts by tracing the roots of the Iranian civilization back to the second millennium B.C. when Indo-European settlers known as Aryans established themselves on the Iranian plateau. These Aryans were the ancestors of the Medes and Persians, with the Medes establishing the first Iranian nation in the seventh century B.C. Their empire was later overtaken by Cyrus the Great, who founded the expansive Persian Empire in the sixth century B.C. Despite being referred to as Persia by the Greeks until 1935, the country has long been known as Iran.

Throughout history, Iran's wealth and strategic location have made it a target for conquest, from the campaigns of Alexander the Great to invasions by Arab, Turkish, and Mongolian forces. However, its enduring Persian culture often absorbed and transformed its conquerors, solidifying a resilient national identity.

The twentieth century marked significant change as Reza Shah sought to modernize and Westernize Iran. Oil became a pivotal resource, attracting

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Western interest and influence, especially from Great Britain. During World War II, Iran's neutrality and the Shah's German sympathies led to an Allied invasion. This resulted in Reza Shah's exile and his son's accession as Mohammad Reza Pahlavi, simply known as the Shah.

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Chapter 9 Summary:

Introduction Summary:

In the introduction to "Persepolis," Marjane Satrapi offers a historical overview of Iran, formerly known as Persia. The narrative begins in the second millennium B.C. with the arrival of Indo-European groups who influenced the region now known as the Iranian plateau. This area gave birth to early civilizations like the Medes and Persians. Under Cyrus the Great in the sixth century B.C., the Persians established a monumental empire noted for its vastness and influence.

Despite frequent invasions by figures like Alexander the Great and others from neighboring regions like the Turks and Mongolians, Persian culture remained resilient, often assimilating its conquerors into its fold.

Fast-forwarding to the twentieth century, Reza Shah initiated Iran's modernization, unveiling a new era marked by the discovery of oil, which introduced Western involvement, especially by Britain. During World War II, Iran became a battleground of influence, leading to the exile of Reza Shah and the rise of his son, Mohammad Reza Pahlavi, who is known simply as the Shah.

A pivotal moment came in 1951 when Prime Minister Mohammed

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Mossadeq nationalized the oil industry, sparking a British-led embargo and a subsequent CIA-assisted coup that reinstated the Shah. His reign lasted until 1979 when the Islamic Revolution forced him out, marking Iran's shift towards theocratic rule.

Satrapi underscores that despite the depiction of Iran under the shadow of fundamentalism and extremism, a complex and profound culture exists beneath. Her memoir serves to challenge stereotypes, highlighting the sacrifices of Iranians who fought for freedom and those who suffered under oppressive regimes or left their homeland. Through "Persepolis," she seeks to preserve the memory of these individuals and emphasize the nation's rich cultural heritage that extends beyond the actions of a few extremists.

The introductory section also includes credits for the translation and publication of "Persepolis" and acknowledges individuals who contributed to the book's completion.

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Chapter 10 Summary:

In the introduction to "Persepolis," Marjane Satrapi provides a sweeping historical overview of Iran, a land of profound cultural heritage and tumultuous history. The narrative traces back to the second millennium B.C. when Indo-European settlers, known as the Aryans, came to what is now the Iranian plateau, laying the foundations for the civilizations of the Medes and the Persians. These early inhabitants gave rise to the Persian Empire, a formidable force established by Cyrus the Great in the sixth century B.C.

The Persian Empire, with its wealth and strategic location, was often the target of foreign invasions, including by Alexander the Great and later by Arab, Turkish, and Mongolian forces. Despite these repeated conquests, Persia—later known as Iran—preserved its rich linguistic and cultural identity, often absorbing and assimilating those who sought to dominate it.

In the twentieth century, Iran embarked on a path of modernization under Reza Shah, who sought to Westernize the nation. The discovery of oil introduced a new dynamic, inviting intense international interest and influence, particularly from Great Britain. Iran's neutrality during World War II led to Allied occupation, and Reza Shah was deposed, succeeded by his son, Mohammad Reza Pahlavi, known as the Shah.

A pivotal moment came in 1951 when Prime Minister Mohammed

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Mossadeq nationalized Iran's oil industry, provoking a British-led embargo and a CIA-organized coup that reinstated the Shah after Mossadeq's overthrow. The Shah's reign persisted until the 1979 Islamic Revolution, which forced him into exile and ushered in significant political transformation.

Satrapa emphasizes the common misconceptions about Iran, countering the pervasive and negative stereotypes often associated with fundamentalism and terrorism. Her motivation to write "Persepolis" reflects a desire to showcase the true spirit of Iran and its people, many of whom have suffered under various regimes or fled persecution. She advocates for the remembrance of those who have fought and sacrificed for freedom, highlighting the resilience and complexity of Iranian culture beyond the actions of extremists.

Finally, the credits and acknowledgments reveal the contributions of various individuals and entities in bringing "Persepolis" to an international audience, establishing it as a significant work that blends personal narrative with historical context, aiming to bridge understanding between Iran and the world.



Critical Thinking

Key Point: Preservation of Cultural Identity

Critical Interpretation: In Chapter 10 of 'The Complete Persepolis,' Marjane Satrapi illustrates the unwavering endurance of Iranian culture despite centuries of invasions and external influences. This key point serves as a testament to the power of cultural identity in preserving a nation's legacy and values, influencing how we navigate challenges in our lives. The story of Iran, as depicted by Satrapi, inspires us to cherish and uphold our unique backgrounds, even when faced with adversities that could potentially erode our essence. Like the Iranian people maintaining their rich cultural tapestry through millennia, we learn to embrace our histories and values, nurturing them as guiding lights that help us overcome challenges and carve out our paths with dignity and resilience. The resilience of cultural identity not only binds us to our roots but also encourages inclusivity, understanding, and empathy among diverse communities in an ever-globalizing world.

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Chapter 11 Summary:

Summary of Introduction to "Persepolis"

The introduction to "Persepolis" by Marjane Satrapi provides a historical overview of Iran, known as Persia until 1935. The narrative begins in the second millennium B.C., when the Iranian plateau was settled by Indo-European invaders who named it Ayryana Vaejo, or “the origin of the Aryans.” Their descendants, the Medes and the Persians, played pivotal roles in shaping the region’s history. The Medes established the first Iranian nation in the 7th century B.C., only to be conquered by Cyrus the Great, who founded the expansive Persian Empire in the 6th century B.C.

Iran’s wealth and strategic location made it a target for various conquerors, including Alexander the Great, Arabs, Turks, and Mongols. Despite continuous foreign domination, Persian language and culture persisted, with invaders often assimilating into the Iranian way of life. The 20th century saw Iran transitioning under Reza Shah, who embarked on modernization and westernization efforts. A significant discovery of oil drew Western economic influence, particularly from Great Britain. During World War II, Iran faced occupation after Reza Shah's refusal to align with the Allies against Germany, leading to his exile and the ascension of his son, Mohammad Reza Pahlavi, as Shah.



In 1951, Prime Minister Mohammed Mossadeq nationalized Iran's oil industry, prompting a British-led embargo and a subsequent 1953 coup orchestrated by the CIA and British intelligence. The Shah was reinstated and remained until the 1979 Islamic Revolution, which forced him into exile, marking a pivotal change in Iran's global image, often associated with fundamentalism and extremism.

Satrapı, as an Iranian who spent a significant part of her life in the country, aims to challenge these stereotypes by highlighting the resilience of Iranians who suffered under oppressive regimes or during the Iran-Iraq war, or were forced into exile. She insists on the importance of remembering these stories, making "Persepolis" a vital narrative to counter misjudgments about Iran based on the actions of a minority.

Publication and Author Information

"Persepolis" was translated into English with contributions from Mattias Ripa and Blake Ferris, under the supervision of Marjane Satrapı and Carol Bernstein. The work was published in the United States by Pantheon Books, a division of Random House, Inc., and in Canada by Random House of Canada, Limited. Originally released in two volumes, the complete edition combines both parts, offering an intricate exploration of Satrapı's

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experiences and Iran's rich, yet tumultuous history.

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Chapter 12:

Introduction Summary of "Persepolis"

In the second millennium B.C., the Iranian plateau saw the rise of early civilizations, notably the Elamites and the Indo-Europeans who would later be known as the Medes and Persians. The name "Iran" comes from "Aryana Vaejo," which signifies "the origin of the Aryans." The Medes established the first Iranian nation in the seventh century B.C., only to be overtaken by Cyrus the Great in the sixth century, who founded the expansive Persian Empire. This empire, known as Persia to the Greeks, faced multiple invasions over centuries—from Alexander the Great and Arab neighbors to Turkish and Mongol conquerors. Despite these invasions, Persian culture and language proved resilient, often absorbing and integrating the invaders.

In the 20th century, Iran went through significant transformation under Reza Shah, who aimed to modernize the country and lessen foreign influence, especially as oil reserves became a focal point for Western interests, particularly Great Britain. Despite Reza Shah's efforts to maintain neutrality, Iran was occupied by Allied forces during World War II due to his German sympathies. His son, Mohammad Reza Pahlavi, later known as the Shah, succeeded him. In 1951, Prime Minister Mohammed Mossadeq's nationalization of the oil industry led to an embargo and a CIA-backed coup



in 1953 that reinstated the Shah, who ruled until the 1979 Islamic revolution forced his exile.

This historical backdrop sets the stage for Marjane Satrapi's "Persepolis," written to challenge stereotypes of Iran as solely a land of extremism and to

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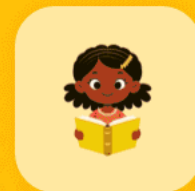
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Chapter 13 Summary:

Introduction to Persepolis

In the introduction to "Persepolis," Marjane Satrapi presents a historical backdrop of Iran, tracing its journey from ancient times to the modern era. The Iranian plateau, originally occupied by Indo-European settlers, saw the rise of the powerful Persian Empire during the sixth century B.C. under Cyrus the Great. Despite centuries of foreign invasions by figures like Alexander the Great and various Middle Eastern and Central Asian conquerors, Iran's resilient Persian culture and language persevered, often absorbing and assimilating its conquerors.

The twentieth century marked significant shifts as Reza Shah endeavored to modernize Iran, and the discovery of oil invited Western influence, particularly from Great Britain. World War II further complicated Iran's political landscape, with the Allies occupying the country due to Reza Shah's neutrality and German sympathies. Following this, Reza Shah was succeeded by his son, Mohammad Reza Pahlavi, known as the Shah.

In 1951, Prime Minister Mohammed Mossadeq's nationalization of the oil industry led to a British-imposed embargo and, subsequently, a CIA-backed coup that reinstated the Shah, who ruled until the infamous Islamic



Revolution of 1979. This revolution dramatically altered the international image of Iran, associating it with fundamentalism and extremism. However, Satrapi challenges this perception by emphasizing the historical richness and cultural depth of Iran, her homeland where she spent much of her life.

The impetus for writing "Persepolis" stems from Satrapi's desire to correct misconceptions and honor the memory of those who suffered and fought for freedom in Iran. She underscores that the actions of a few extremists should not define an entire nation.

The introduction sets the stage for the graphic novel series, encapsulating a complex interplay of historical events and cultural resilience, with Satrapi providing her personal insight into the Iranian experience and emphasizing the significance of remembering the past.

Acknowledgments and Credits

Acknowledgments and credits follow, noting contributions by translators Mattias Ripa and Blake Ferris, supervised by Satrapi and Carol Bernstein. The original publication credits L'Association, Paris, and thanks is extended to individual contributors and partners involved in the publication of "Persepolis." The book, initially published in two volumes in the United States, offers insightful perspectives into the life and struggles within Iran

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through Satrapi's unique narrative and illustrative lens.

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Chapter 14 Summary:

Introduction to Persepolis

In the second millennium B.C., the Iranian plateau witnessed the emergence of several significant civilizations that shaped its rich history. Among these were the Elamites, who developed alongside Babylon, and the Indo-European settlers whose migration gave rise to the Medes and the Persians. The term "Iran" originates from "Aryana Vaejo," symbolizing the Aryans' homeland. By the seventh century B.C., the Medes had founded the first Iranian nation, which was eventually overtaken by Cyrus the Great. Cyrus established the vast Persian Empire in the sixth century B.C., a focus of historical reverence and the predecessor to modern Iran, known as Persia in Greek literature until 1935 when Reza Shah sought a national identity shift by officially adopting the name Iran.

Throughout its history, due to its riches and strategic location, Iran was a target of frequent invasions. It was conquered by figures like Alexander the Great and challenged by Arab, Turkish, and Mongolian armies. Despite these disruptions, Persian culture and language remained resilient, absorbing and assimilating foreign elements into its identity.

The twentieth century brought new transformations under Reza Shah, who

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embarked on modernizing and westernizing Iran. This era coincided with the discovery of oil, a resource that became a double-edged sword by attracting Western interest and intervention, especially from Great Britain. Iran's geopolitical significance was highlighted during World War II when Reza Shah's neutrality prompted an Allied occupation to secure supply lines, leading to his exile and succession by Mohammad Reza Pahlavi, known as the Shah.

A significant turn of events occurred in 1951 when Prime Minister Mohammed Mossadeq nationalized the oil industry, facing retribution from Britain in the form of an oil embargo. The situation escalated in 1953 when a CIA-backed coup ousted Mossadeq, reinforcing the Shah's authority until the 1979 Islamic Revolution forced his abdication. Since then, Western perceptions of Iran have been largely colored by themes of fundamentalism and terrorism, overshadowing its ancient and rich cultural legacy.

Marjane Satrapi, the author of "Persepolis," aims to challenge these one-dimensional views by shedding light on the nuanced history and daily experiences of Iranians. Through her narrative, she strives to commemorate those who sacrificed their lives for freedom, resisted oppressive regimes, or were compelled to leave their homeland, underlining the necessity to remember the complex tapestry that defines Iran beyond the actions of a few extremists.



The publication credits for "Persepolis" include translation work by Mattias Ripa and Blake Ferris, under the supervision of Satrapi and Carol Bernstein, with lettering by Celine Merrien and Eve Deluze. Acknowledgements are extended to a wide range of contributors who supported the development of the book.

"Persepolis," first published in the United States by Pantheon Books, unfolds in two volumes that document Satrapi's poignant exploration of Iran's socio-political landscape through the lens of personal and collective experiences.

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Chapter 15 Summary:

In the Introduction to "Persepolis" by Marjane Satrapi, the author sets the stage for a journey through Iran's complex history and her personal experiences. She begins by tracing the ancient roots of Iran back to the second millennium B.C., explaining how Indo-European invaders named the vast Iranian plateau after themselves, resulting in the term "Iran," meaning "the origin of the Aryans." These peoples evolved into the Medes and Persians, with the Medes establishing the first Iranian nation in the seventh century B.C. However, it was Cyrus the Great who created one of history's largest empires, the Persian Empire, in the sixth century B.C. This empire was known as Persia in the Western world, a name that persisted until 1935, when Reza Shah asked for the nation to be called Iran to reflect its native origins.

Iran's strategic wealth and location made it a constant target for invasions by forces such as Alexander the Great and later by Arab, Turkish, and Mongolian conquerors. Despite these challenges, Persian culture and language survived, with invaders often assimilating into the rich Iranian culture. Entering the 20th century, Reza Shah pushed for modernization and Westernization, coinciding with the discovery of oil—a catalyst for Western economic influence, primarily by Great Britain. During World War II, the Allies deposed Reza Shah due to his sympathies with Germany, replacing him with his son, Mohammad Reza Pahlavi, known as the Shah.



In 1951, Prime Minister Mohammed Mossadeq attempted to nationalize Iran's oil industry, spurring a British embargo and a subsequent 1953 coup orchestrated by the CIA and British intelligence, which restored the Shah to power. His reign endured until 1979, when the Islamic Revolution forced him into exile. Post-revolution, the global view of Iran was often marred by associations with fundamentalism and extremism. However, Satrapi emphasizes that this portrayal doesn't encompass the entirety of Iran's culture or its people's resilience.

Through "Persepolis," Satrapi seeks to rectify these misconceptions, shining light on Iranians who sacrificed for freedom and suffered immense hardships. Her narrative underlines the importance of remembering history accurately and acknowledges the lives impacted by oppressive regimes and war. With credit to translators Mattias Ripa and Blake Ferris, and supported by various contributors, Satrapi's "Persepolis" published originally in two volumes by Pantheon Books, looks to offer a nuanced perspective of Iranian history and identity beyond common stereotypes.

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Critical Thinking

Key Point: Importance of Accurate Historical Perspective

Critical Interpretation: Immersing yourself in the rich tapestry of history encourages you to look beyond one-dimensional portrayals and acknowledge the intricate layers of any culture or nation. In doing so, you pave the way for a more nuanced understanding of the present and, ultimately, the future. In Chapter 15 of 'Persepolis,' you witness how Marjane Satrapi endeavors to enlighten the world about the genuine nature of Iranian culture and identity, often overshadowed by prevailing stereotypes. As you reflect on Satrapi's narrative, you learn that respecting the true essence of past events not only fosters global empathy but also empowers you to champion an enlightened narrative in your everyday interactions, standing as an advocate for truth and understanding amidst complex headlines.

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Chapter 16:

Summary of Introduction and Background Information of "Persepolis" by Marjane Satrapi

In the introduction to "Persepolis," Marjane Satrapi provides a historical overview of Iran's rich and complex history, tracing its roots back to the second millennium B.C. when Indo-European groups settled the expansive Iranian plateau. These settlers, primarily the Medes and Persians, laid the foundations of what would become a significant civilization. The term "Iran" itself is derived from "Ayryana Vaejo," meaning the origin of the Aryans. The Medes established Iran's first nation in the 7th century B.C., which was later unified under Cyrus the Great's vast Persian Empire in the 6th century B.C. Despite years of invasions by forces like Alexander the Great, Arabs, Turks, and Mongols, Iran's robust Persian language and culture endured and absorbed these influences, maintaining a resilient national identity.

Fast forward to the 20th century, Iran embarked on modernization and westernization under Reza Shah, accompanied by the discovery of oil, which attracted Western influence, particularly from Great Britain. During World War II, Iran, under Reza Shah, leaned towards Germany, prompting the Allies to invade and occupy the country, forcing Reza Shah into exile. His son, Mohammad Reza Pahlavi, succeeded him as the Shah. In 1951, Iran

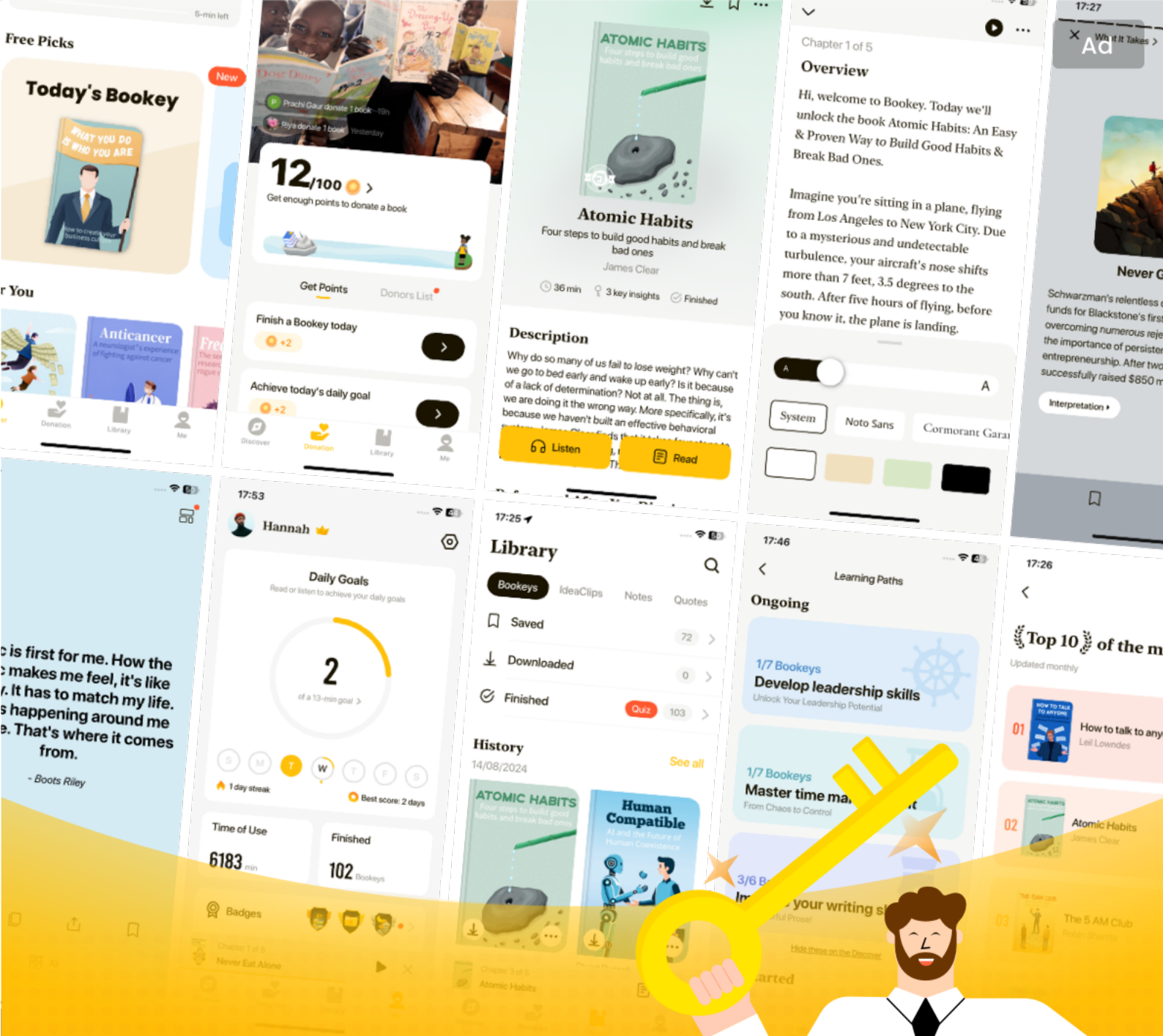


saw the nationalization of its oil industry under Prime Minister Mohammed Mossadeq, leading to a significant conflict with Britain, resulting in an embargo and a CIA-backed coup that reinstated the Shah after briefly leaving the country. His rule continued until the Islamic revolution in 1979 when the Shah fled Iran.

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Chapter 17 Summary:

Introduction Summary

The introduction traces the historical and cultural evolution of Iran, highlighting its rich legacy. In the second millennium B.C., Indo-European tribes settled on the vast Iranian plateau, naming it "Ayryana Vaejo" or "the origin of the Aryans," setting the stage for the Medes and Persians. The Medes established the first Iranian nation in the 7th century B.C., later overtaken by Cyrus the Great, who founded the expansive Persian Empire in the 6th century B.C. Although Iran was historically subjected to invasions by forces like Alexander the Great and various Arabic, Turkish, and Mongolian conquerors, its resilient Persian culture absorbed and assimilated these influences. This cultural resistance ensured the preservation of distinct traditions and language despite foreign rule.

By the 20th century, Iran entered a transformative period under Reza Shah, who sought modernization and Westernization. Oil, discovered as a new source of wealth, attracted Western interests, notably Great Britain, which exerted significant economic influence. During World War II, Iran's neutrality aligned with Germany prompted Allied occupation, leading to Reza Shah's exile in favor of his son, Mohammad Reza Pahlavi—the Shah. The 1951 nationalization of Iran's oil industry by Prime Minister



Mohammed Mossadeq incited a British-led oil embargo. The 1953 CIA-backed coup, aided by British intelligence, restored the Shah's power after Mossadeq's overthrow.

The Shah's reign ended with the 1979 Islamic Revolution, after which global perception frequently tied Iran to fundamentalism and terrorism. Marjane Satrapi, having lived much of her life in Iran, challenges this reductionist view in "Persepolis." Her work strives to honor Iranians' sacrifices for freedom, commemorate those affected by the Iran-Iraq war, and reflect on those forced to flee due to oppressive regimes. Satrapi emphasizes the importance of remembering history's lessons, underscoring the difference between forgiving and forgetting, hoping her narrative offers insight beyond the deeds of a few extremists.

Period	Event	Description
2nd Millennium B.C.	Settlement of Indo-European Tribes	Indo-European tribes settled on the Iranian plateau, naming it "Aryana Vaejo," leading to the rise of the Medes and Persians.
7th Century B.C.	Establishment of the Medes	The Medes established the first Iranian nation, later overtaken by Cyrus the Great.
6th Century B.C.	Founding of the Persian Empire	Cyrus the Great founded the Persian Empire, leading to its significant expansion.
Various Historical Periods	Invasions and Cultural Resilience	Despite invasions by Alexander the Great, and Arab, Turk, and Mongol forces, Persian culture persisted and absorbed these influences.

Period	Event	Description
20th Century	Reza Shah's Modernization	Iran underwent modernization under Reza Shah, with discoveries of oil attracting Western interests like Great Britain.
World War II	Allied Occupation	Iran's neutrality aligned with Germany led to an Allied occupation, resulting in Reza Shah's exile and Mohammad Reza Pahlavi's succession.
1951	Nationalization of Oil	Prime Minister Mohammed Mossadeq nationalized Iran's oil, triggering a British-led embargo.
1953	CIA-backed Coup	The CIA, with British intelligence assistance, led a coup that restored the Shah's power after Mossadeq's overthrow.
1979	Islamic Revolution	The Shah's reign ended, leading to perceptions of Iran being strongly linked with fundamentalism and terrorism.
Modern Reflection	Marjane Satrapi's "Persepolis"	Satrapi's narrative honors the sacrifices for freedom, commemorates war-affected individuals and highlights those fleeing oppression, emphasizing history's lessons.



Chapter 18 Summary:

The introduction opens with an overview of Iran's rich history, stretching back to the second millennium B.C. when the Elam nation thrived alongside Babylon. It introduces the arrival of Indo-European settlers, whose establishment on the expansive Iranian plateau gave rise to the name "Iran," derived from "Aryana Vaejo," meaning "the origin of the Aryans." These semi-nomadic settlers became the ancestors of the Medes and Persians. In the seventh century B.C., the Medes established the first Iranian nation, which was later dismantled by Cyrus the Great, leading to the creation of the sprawling Persian Empire in the sixth century B.C. This empire became one of the mightiest of the ancient world.

For centuries, the land now known as Iran faced numerous invasions due to its wealth and strategic location, from historical figures like Alexander the Great to conquering Arabs, Turks, and Mongols. Despite these incursions, the Persian language and culture proved resilient, often absorbing and transforming the diverse invaders. Modern history marked another pivotal chapter as Reza Shah endeavored to modernize Iran while exploiting newfound oil wealth. This era invited neocolonial interest, notably from Great Britain, leading to significant Western influence.

During World War II, Reza Shah's sympathies toward Germany prompted an Allied occupation after he resisted siding with them. His downfall led to the



rise of his son, Mohammad Reza Pahlavi, known as the Shah. In 1951, the nationalization of the oil industry by Prime Minister Mohammed Mossadeq resulted in a British-led embargo and a 1953 coup orchestrated in part by the CIA, reinstating the Shah until his overthrow by the Islamic Revolution in 1979. The revolution shifted global perceptions of Iran, often associating the nation with extremism.

Marjane Satrapi, the author of **Persepolis**, underscores the importance of portraying Iran beyond stereotypes of fanaticism and terrorism. Having lived much of her life in the country, she aims to honor the memory of those who suffered or were martyred for freedom, or who fled repression. The introduction conveys a plea to remember history's forgotten voices, stressing the value of both forgiveness and remembrance.

This section also provides production credits, mentioning key translators, supervisors, and contributors to the translation work, along with acknowledgments to individuals and organizations supporting the project. Finally, it covers the publication details of **Persepolis**, emphasizing its dual volume release by Pantheon Books and highlighting Satrapi's desire to present an authentic narrative of Iran.

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Chapter 19 Summary:

Introduction to Persepolis

In the introduction to "Persepolis," Marjane Satrapi provides a succinct overview of Iran's rich history and cultural resilience. Beginning in the second millennium B.C., the Iranian plateau, inhabited by Indo-European settlers known as Aryans, saw the rise of ancient civilizations like Elam and later, the Medes and Persians. By the seventh century B.C., the Medes established Iran's first nation, only for it to be conquered by Cyrus the Great, who founded the expansive Persian Empire in the sixth century B.C. This empire became renowned for its cultural and linguistic strength, enduring numerous invasions from forces such as Alexander the Great and later, Arab, Turkish, and Mongolian conquerors. Despite these challenges, Persia maintained its cultural identity, often assimilating its conquerors.

In the twentieth century, under Reza Shah, Iran embarked on modernization and westernization. Newly discovered oil reserves attracted Western interest, leading to substantial foreign influence, particularly by Great Britain. The geopolitical climate of World War II saw Reza Shah ousted by the Allies due to his German sympathies, replaced by his son, Mohammad Reza Pahlavi—the Shah. In a bold move in 1951, Prime Minister Mohammed Mossadeq nationalized the oil industry, prompting a British embargo and a

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CIA-backed coup in 1953 that returned the Shah to power. His reign lasted until 1979 when he fled amidst the Islamic Revolution.

Satrapı underscores that contemporary perceptions of Iran, often linked with fundamentalism and terrorism, overshadow its rich and complex history. As someone who spent much of her life in Iran, she emphasizes the importance of remembering the many Iranians who have suffered or perished under oppressive regimes or during conflicts, particularly against Iraq. These experiences compel her to tell her story through "Persepolis," aiming to challenge stereotypes and honor those who have fought for freedom and justice. Satrapı's narrative is not just personal but an act of preserving cultural memory against the backdrop of historical and political turbulence.

Acknowledgments and Publication Details

The acknowledgments section credits those involved in the translation and dissemination of "Persepolis." This includes translators Mattias Ripa and Blake Ferris, overseen by Satrapı and Carol Bernstein, with lettering by Celine Merrien and Eve Deluze. Special thanks are extended to Anjali Singh and others whose support was instrumental in bringing the work to broader audiences. "Persepolis" was first published in two volumes and translated from French to English, gaining publication in the United States and Canada by Pantheon Books, a division of Random House. It has since become a

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registered trademark of Random House, embodying a crucial cultural artifact that narrates the complexities of Iranian identity and history through Satrapi's unique lens.

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Critical Thinking

Key Point: Resilience through cultural identity

Critical Interpretation: Reflect on the inspiring resilience of maintaining your cultural identity amidst adversity and change. As you navigate life's challenges, preserve the essence of who you are, just as the Persian culture thrived through centuries of conquest and transformation. Embrace your heritage, allowing it to ground you and provide strength, even when external forces may seek to alter your path. Let this enduring spirit lead you to honor and uphold your personal and communal history as a source of empowerment and continuity in the face of change.

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Chapter 20:

To My Parents - Introduction to Persepolis

"Persepolis" is a deeply personal narrative that intertwines Iran's ancient and modern history with the experiences of Marjane Satrapi, its author. The story begins by tracing the lineage and evolution of the Iranian civilization, which has roots in the second millennium B.C. when Indo-European settlers, the Medes and the Persians, established themselves on the Iranian plateau. These early inhabitants laid the groundwork for what would become the Persian Empire, one of history's grandest empires, founded by Cyrus the Great in the sixth century B.C. Notably, the name "Iran" originates from "Aryana Vaejo," meaning "the origin of the Aryans," which reflects the enduring legacy of these ancient cultures.

Throughout history, Iran has been a prize for conquerors due to its wealth and strategic location. Despite invasions by Alexander the Great, Arabs, Turks, and Mongols, Persian language and culture remained resilient, ultimately assimilating many of the invaders. This cultural perseverance is a testament to Iran's enduring legacy.

In the 20th century, under Reza Shah, Iran undertook efforts to modernize and Westernize, only to discover oil, igniting a new era of foreign interest,

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especially from Great Britain. During World War II, despite initial neutrality, Iran was occupied by the Allies, leading to Reza Shah's exile and his son, Mohammad Reza Pahlavi, known as the Shah, ascending the throne. The nationalization of Iran's oil industry under Prime Minister Mohammed Mossadeq in 1951 led to a retaliation from Britain and a CIA-backed coup in 1953 that reinstated the Shah's power.

The Shah's reign lasted until 1979, culminating in the Islamic Revolution that forced him into exile. The subsequent portrayal of Iran in terms of fundamentalism and terrorism is something Satrapi seeks to challenge through "Persepolis." As an Iranian who spent much of her life in Iran, she emphasizes that these depictions do not capture the true essence of her country. Her work aims to honor those who sacrificed their lives for freedom, endured suffering under oppressive regimes, fought in the Iran-Iraq war, or were compelled to leave their homeland.

Satrapi's message is clear: while forgiveness is possible, the past must never be forgotten. The graphic memoir, originally published in two parts, finds its purpose in humanizing a culture often misunderstood by the West, ensuring the stories of Iran's people are preserved and respected.

Credits and Acknowledgments

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"Persepolis" has been translated and brought to international audiences through meticulous efforts. The first part was translated by Mattias Ripa, and the second by Blake Ferris, supervised by Satrapi and Carol Bernstein. Lettering was crafted by Celine Merrien and Eve Deluze. Special thanks are extended to numerous individuals and organizations who contributed to the memoir's journey to publication.

"Persepolis" was published in the United States by Pantheon Books and in Canada by Random House. The translation and publication efforts have ensured that Satrapi's story reaches a global audience, continuing to educate and resonate with readers worldwide.

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Chapter 21 Summary:

The introduction to "Persepolis" by Marjane Satrapi provides a historical overview of Iran, setting the stage for understanding the rich tapestry of Iranian culture and how it has evolved over the millennia. Beginning in the second millennium B.C., it outlines how the Indo-European invaders settled in the Iranian plateau, giving rise to the Medes and Persians, with the Medes founding the first Iranian nation. The narrative then shifts to Cyrus the Great, who established the vast Persian Empire in the sixth century B.C.

Iran's history is marked by repeated invasions and foreign dominance, from Alexander the Great to Arab, Turkish, and Mongolian conquerors. Despite these challenges, Persian language and culture proved resilient, absorbing invading influences while maintaining a distinct identity. The story fast-forwards to the twentieth century, focusing on Reza Shah's efforts to modernize and westernize Iran and the momentous discovery of oil, which brought both wealth and increased Western interference, notably by Britain.

During World War II, Iran's geopolitics became complex when Reza Shah was forced into exile due to his pro-German inclinations, leading to Allied occupation of Iran. His son, Mohammad Reza Pahlavi, commonly known as the Shah, succeeded him and reigned until the 1979 Islamic Revolution forced his departure. The role of foreign powers again became evident when the CIA orchestrated a coup against the democratically elected Prime



Minister Mohammed Mossadeq in 1953 for nationalizing the oil industry, reinforcing the Shah's power but sowing seeds of discontent that led to revolution.

Satrapi's introduction serves not only as a prelude to her graphic memoir but also as a personal mission to correct global perceptions of Iran. By recounting these historical dynamics, she underscores that the actions of a few extremists should not define an entire nation. She emphasizes remembering those Iranians who fought for freedom and suffered under repressive regimes. Writing "Persepolis" is her endeavor to provide a more nuanced narrative, honoring her heritage and acknowledging its complexities beyond fundamentalism and terrorism.

The introductory section also includes acknowledgments and credits noting contributors to the translation and publication of "Persepolis," underscoring the collaborative efforts to bring this multifaceted story to an international audience. Through this work, Satrapi aims to reveal the vibrancy and resilience of Iranian culture, enriching readers' understanding of a nation often misunderstood.

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Chapter 22 Summary:

Introduction to "Persepolis" by Marjane Satrapi

The origins of Iran trace back to the second millennium B.C., during which the Elamites developed a civilization alongside Babylon. The Iranian plateau was named after Indo-European settlers referred to as "the Aryans," a term evolved from "Ayryana Vaejo." These settlers were the ancestors of the Medes and Persians. By the seventh century B.C., the Medes established the first Iranian nation, which was subsequently overtaken by Cyrus the Great, forming the vast Persian Empire in the sixth century B.C. Until 1935, the country was known globally by its Greek name, Persia, until Reza Shah called for the name Iran to be adopted.

Iran's richness both in resources and strategic geographical placement made it vulnerable to foreign invasions, including those by Alexander the Great, Arabs, Turks, and Mongols. However, its resilient Persian culture absorbed these various influences, forging a unique, enduring cultural identity.

In the 20th century, Iran began modernizing under Reza Shah, and the discovery of oil introduced both wealth and Western interest, particularly from Britain. During World War II, the Shah was deposed due to his pro-German stance, and Allied forces occupied Iran, leading to his son,

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Mohammad Reza Pahlavi, assuming the throne.

The nationalization of the oil industry in 1951 by Prime Minister Mohammed Mossadeq prompted a crisis as Britain imposed an embargo, and the CIA, aided by British intelligence, orchestrated a coup in 1953 to reinstate the Shah. Mohammad Reza Pahlavi ruled until the Islamic Revolution in 1979, after which he fled the country.

This introduction serves as a backdrop to Marjane Satrapi's "Persepolis," a personal narrative shedding light on Iran's complex cultural and historical landscape, often overshadowed by associations with extremism and terrorism. Satrapi aims to portray Iran beyond these stereotypes, honoring those who resisted tyranny and endured hardship. "Persepolis" is a tribute to both the resilience of the Iranian people and the nuanced history of their nation. The narrative underscores the importance of remembering history's impact without letting the actions of a few define an entire culture.

Published in two volumes in the early 2000s, "Persepolis" has been translated and made accessible globally, strengthening Satrapi's mission to share her perspective on Iran's history and identity.

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Critical Thinking

Key Point: Resilience in the Face of Adversity

Critical Interpretation: In Chapter 22, the core message that resonates most is the persistent resilience of the Iranian people throughout history. Despite numerous invasions and attempts by powerful empires to dominate them, the unique Persian culture has remained vibrant and enduring. This resilience serves as a powerful reminder today, encouraging us to hold onto our cultural identities and personal beliefs amidst external pressures. Like the Iranians, you can absorb influences without losing the essence of who you are. Embrace change and challenge while remaining anchored in your values and identity, drawing strength from those who've resisted and persisted before you.

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Chapter 23 Summary:

In the introduction to "Persepolis," Marjane Satrapi offers an insightful overview of Iranian history, tracing its roots back to the second millennium B.C. when semi-nomadic Indo-European tribes settled on the vast Iranian plateau, an area that later became known as Persia. This brief historical recount highlights the establishment of the first Iranian nation by the Medes and their subsequent conquest by Cyrus the Great, who founded the expansive Persian Empire in the sixth century B.C. Over the centuries, Iran, rich in culture and strategically located, faced numerous invasions—from Alexander the Great to the Arabs, Turks, and Mongols. Despite such turmoil, Persia's robust culture and language not only endured but also assimilated conquering forces.

Entering the twentieth century, Reza Shah sought modernization and Westernization for the nation, amidst the burgeoning discovery of oil. This led to external influences, particularly by Great Britain, which significantly impacted Iran's economy. During World War II, when Reza Shah refused to align with the Allies against Germany, the country was invaded and occupied, leading to his exile. His son, Mohammad Reza Pahlavi (the Shah), succeeded him. A significant political upheaval occurred in 1951 when Prime Minister Mohammed Mossadeq nationalized the oil industry, prompting a British-engineered oil embargo and a CIA-backed coup that restored the Shah's power in 1953. The Shah's reign continued until the



Islamic Revolution of 1979 forced him to flee.

Satrapı emphasizes that Iran's legacy should not be overshadowed by associations with fundamentalism or terrorism. Having spent more than half her life in Iran, she seeks to correct these misconceptions through her work "Persepolis," highlighting the sacrifices of those who fought for freedom and suffered under repressive regimes. Her narrative seeks to remind readers to remember these stories, asserting that forgiveness should not mean forgetting.

The introduction concludes with acknowledgments, crediting the translation and publication team involved in bringing "Persepolis" to the international stage, signifying the collaborative effort to share Satrapı's poignant story with a wider audience. This version of "Persepolis" consolidates its initial two separate volumes published in the United States and Canada, underscoring its wide-reaching impact and importance in representing a multifaceted perspective of Iranian society and history.

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Chapter 24:

In the introduction of "Persepolis," Marjane Satrapi provides a sweeping overview of Iran's rich and complex history, centering on the evolution of the nation from ancient times to the modern age. She traces the origins of Iran back to the Indo-European settlers who named the land after "Aryana Vaejo," meaning "the origin of the Aryans," and whose descendants were the Medes and the Persians. The Medes established the first Iranian nation, which was eventually overturned by Cyrus the Great. Under his leadership, the Persian Empire grew to become one of antiquity's largest empires, which remained resilient in the face of numerous invasions over centuries.

Despite being a frequent target of conquest by figures like Alexander the Great, Arabs, Turks, and Mongols, Persian culture and language persisted, influencing even those who sought to dominate it. The narrative shifts into the 20th century as Reza Shah sought modernization and westernization for Iran, coinciding with the discovery of oil—a boon that also invited deeper entanglements with foreign powers, particularly Great Britain. This era reached a critical juncture during World War II, when Allied forces ousted Reza Shah due to his pro-German stance, installing his son Mohammad Reza Pahlavi as Shah. The subsequent nationalization of the oil industry by Prime Minister Mohammad Mossadeq in 1951 led to further international conflict, resulting in a coup backed by the CIA and British intelligence, reinstating the Shah's regime until the 1979 Islamic Revolution.



Satrapi's poignant recollection underscores her frustration with reductive narratives that equate Iran solely with fundamentalism and terrorism. Her graphic novel "Persepolis" is an attempt to offer a nuanced portrayal of Iranian society, acknowledging the lives of those who fought for freedom,

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Chapter 25 Summary:

The introduction to "Persepolis" by Marjane Satrapi provides a sweeping overview of Iranian history, highlighting the nation's resilient culture amidst a backdrop of conquest and change. Iran, known historically as Persia, traces its origins back to the early Indo-European settlers who named the Iranian plateau, leading to the establishment of the Persian Empire by Cyrus the Great in the sixth century B.C. Despite successive invasions by figures like Alexander the Great and various conquests by Arabs, Turks, and Mongols, Persian culture and language remained robust, often assimilating invaders into its fold.

In the 20th century, Iran began a significant transformation under Reza Shah, who sought to modernize and Westernize the nation. This era saw the discovery of oil, ushering in heightened foreign interest, particularly from Great Britain. The geopolitical landscape further evolved during World War II, leading to foreign occupation and Reza Shah's replacement by his son, Mohammad Reza Pahlavi, known as the Shah. Following the nationalization of Iran's oil industry by Prime Minister Mohammed Mossadeq, a consequential British embargo, and a CIA-led coup reinstated the Shah, who ruled until the Islamic Revolution of 1979.

The introduction underscores Satrapi's impetus for writing "Persepolis": to challenge the monolithic portrayal of Iran as a bastion of fanaticism and



highlight the nation's complex and nuanced history. It also serves as a tribute to Iranians who suffered under repressive regimes and those who fought for freedom and justice.

In providing this historical context, Satrapi positions her narrative as a personal, poignant testament to the multifaceted Iranian experience, seeking a broader understanding beyond the reductive stereotypes often propagated in contemporary discourse. "Persepolis" is thus not only a memoir but also an effort to honor the memory of those who resisted and endured in the face of adversity.

The credits section acknowledges contributors to the creation and translation of "Persepolis," highlighting the collaborative efforts that brought Satrapi's story to an international audience.

Section	Summary
Iranian Historical Overview	The introduction provides a broad overview of Iran's resilient culture despite numerous invasions over centuries. Beginning with the Persian Empire's establishment in the 6th century B.C. by Cyrus the Great, through subsequent invasions, Persian culture and language resisted assimilation.
Modern Transformation	In the 20th century, Iran, under Reza Shah, sought modernization and Westernization which brought foreign interest due to oil discoveries. Following WWII, Mohammad Reza Pahlavi took over, ruling until the 1979 Islamic Revolution.

Section	Summary
Political Dynamics	The nationalization of the oil industry by Prime Minister Mossadeq led to geopolitical turmoil, including a CIA-led coup that reinstated the Shah, reflecting a period of political and social upheaval.
Motivation for "Persepolis"	Satrapı wrote "Persepolis" to challenge simplistic portrayals of Iran and emphasize its nuanced history. The narrative aims to showcase the multifaceted Iranian experience, serving as a testament to those who endured repressive regimes.
Broad Objective	"Persepolis" is both a memoir and an effort to broaden global understanding of Iran beyond reductive stereotypes and honor the memory of Iranians resisting adversity.
Credits	The introduction concludes by acknowledging contributors to the creation and translation of "Persepolis," highlighting the collaborative efforts that gave the book international reach.



Critical Thinking

Key Point: Resilience of National and Personal Identity

Critical Interpretation: In Chapter 25, you are reminded that despite the many attempts to conquer and change Iranian culture, the spirit of its people remained unbroken. This enduring resiliency serves as an inspiration for your life, showcasing that even amidst adversity, maintaining and cherishing your identity is paramount. You witness how an unyielding commitment to cultural roots can anchor you through life's tumultuous changes, fostering strength and resolution, even when external forces seek to redefine or suppress who you are. Cherish your heritage and individuality, for they form the steadfast foundation upon which you can build a future that respects both your past and aspirations.

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Chapter 26 Summary:

The introduction to "Persepolis" provides a sweeping overview of Iran's rich history, illustrating how the region has evolved over the millennia and the ways in which foreign powers have influenced its development. It begins with the narrative of early civilizations, mentioning the Elam nation and the arrival of Indo-European settlers, whose descendants, the Medes and Persians, founded significant political entities on the Iranian plateau. The Medes established the first Iranian nation, which Cyrus the Great later supplanted with the expansive Persian Empire in the sixth century B.C. The region's strategic location and wealth made it a target for conquerors such as Alexander the Great and later, Arab, Turkish, and Mongolian invaders. Despite these incursions, Persian culture and language persisted, showcasing the resilience of its civilization.

The narrative progresses into the 20th century, highlighting Reza Shah's attempts to modernize Iran while revealing the country's newfound wealth in oil, which attracted Western interest and led to economic entanglements, particularly with Great Britain. During World War II, geopolitics saw Iran being occupied by Allied forces due to Reza Shah's neutrality and pro-German stance, leading to his exile. His son, Mohammad Reza Pahlavi, was installed as the Shah. A significant event followed in 1951 when Prime Minister Mohammed Mossadeq nationalized the oil industry, prompting a British-led oil embargo. A subsequent CIA and British intelligence-backed



coup reinstated the Shah, setting the stage for widespread discontent that culminated in the 1979 Islamic Revolution. Post-revolution, Iran's international image became marred by associations with extremism and terrorism.

Marjane Satrapi, the author of "Persepolis," provides these insights to counter the stereotypical image of Iran and its people that often dominates global discourse. She emphasizes remembering the sacrifices of those who fought for freedom and suffered under various oppressive regimes, arguing for a nuanced understanding of Iran beyond the actions of a few extremists.

The introduction is a prelude to Satrapi's personal narrative, illustrating her motivation to share her story and depict Iran's vibrant culture and tumultuous history. This context is essential as readers embark on a graphic memoir that is as much a historical and political commentary as it is a personal account. The publication background and contributors to the translation of "Persepolis" are acknowledged, underscoring the collaborative effort to bring Satrapi's story to an international audience.

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Chapter 27 Summary:

In the introduction to "Persepolis," Marjane Satrapi sets the historical and cultural backdrop of Iran, emphasizing the country's rich past and often turbulent history. She traces the origins of Iranian civilization back to the second millennium B.C. when Indo-European groups settled on the Iranian plateau. This area later became known as Iran, derived from "Aryana Vaejo," meaning the land of the Aryans, and was home to the Medes and Persians.

In the seventh century B.C., the Medes established the first Iranian nation, which eventually was overtaken by Cyrus the Great, founder of the vast Persian Empire in the sixth century B.C. Despite the subsequent invasions by figures like Alexander the Great and various Arab, Turkish, and Mongolian forces, the Persian language and culture remained resilient and absorbed these influences.

The 20th century heralded significant changes with Reza Shah's modernization efforts and the discovery of oil, which attracted Western interests, particularly from Great Britain. During World War II, Iran declared neutrality but was invaded by the Allies, resulting in Reza Shah's exile and the rise of his son, Mohammad Reza Shah Pahlavi. The political landscape further shifted when Prime Minister Mohammed Mossadeq nationalized the oil industry in 1951, causing tensions with Britain and leading to a



CIA-backed coup in 1953 that reinstated the Shah.

The Shah's reign continued until 1979, when he fled during the Islamic Revolution, marking a new era often overshadowed by associations with extremism. Satrapi clarifies that these perceptions are misrepresentative of the nation she knows and loves. She stresses the importance of remembering the sacrifices made by those who defended freedom and suffered under oppressive regimes, and this motivates her to share the deeper, more nuanced story of Iran through her work in "Persepolis."

Written from a personal perspective, Satrapi's narrative seeks to counter the monolithic views of Iran by shedding light on the rich tapestry of its history and the resilience of its people. Through "Persepolis," she aims to represent the complexity of Iranian identity beyond prevalent stereotypes, honoring those who endured and contributed to its legacy.

The introductory remarks are followed by acknowledgments and credits for translations and publication details, highlighting contributors to the successful realization of the book. These sections serve to acknowledge those who helped bring "Persepolis" to a global audience, ensuring that the story of Iran is told with authenticity and nuance. Published in two volumes, "Persepolis" and "Persepolis 2," the complete work offers an intimate view into Iran's history and Satrapi's experiences, aiming to foster understanding and challenge misconceptions held by the wider world.

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Chapter 28:

Introduction Summary:

The introduction of **Persepolis** by Marjane Satrapi offers a historical backdrop essential for understanding Iran's complex narrative. During the second millennium B.C., as the Elam nation thrived beside Babylon, Indo-European settlers conquered and named the vast Iranian plateau. The term "Iran" evolved from "Aryana Vaejo," signifying "the origin of the Aryans," a semi-nomadic group whose descendants became the Medes and Persians. The Medes established Iran's first nation in the seventh century B.C., but it was Cyrus the Great who, in the sixth century B.C., founded the Persian Empire, one of the ancient world's largest empires.

Persia, often known by its Greek name until 1935, faced numerous invasions due to its wealth and strategic position, from Alexander the Great to Arab, Turkish, and Mongolian forces. Despite these invasions, Persian culture and language endured, with invaders often assimilating into the robust cultural milieu. In the twentieth century, under Reza Shah, Iran embraced Westernization and modernization, coinciding with the discovery of oil. This resource brought economic potential but also foreign intervention, notably by Great Britain. During World War II, Iran was pressured into allegiance against Germany; however, Reza Shah's sympathies with Germany led to



Allied occupation and his eventual exile. His son, Mohammad Reza Pahlavi, known as the Shah, ascended to power.

A significant turning point came in 1951 when Prime Minister Mohammed Mossadeq nationalized the oil industry, prompting a British embargo and a CIA-backed coup in 1953, which reinstated the Shah. The Shah's rule persisted until 1979, when he was overthrown during the Islamic Revolution. Post-revolution, Iran's image in the global narrative has been overshadowed by associations with fundamentalism and terrorism. Through **Persepolis**, Satrapi aims to illuminate the lesser-known narrative of the Iranian people—those who fought for freedom, suffered under tyranny, and were displaced by conflict—asserting that an entire nation should not be judged by the actions of a few extremists. This memoir, deeply personal yet universal, seeks to ensure these sacrifices are not forgotten, echoing the sentiment that while forgiveness is possible, forgetting is not.

Publication Information:

Persepolis and its sequel were translated and published by Mattias Ripa and Blake Ferris, with Satrapi's oversight. The comic books were initially released in French and then in English by Pantheon Books, a division of Random House, in the U.S. The Complete **Persepolis**, published in two separate volumes, stands as a significant work, capturing an essential

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perspective on Iran's history and culture.

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Chapter 29 Summary:

Introduction to "Persepolis" by Marjane Satrapi: A Brief Summary

In Marjane Satrapi's introduction to "Persepolis," the author embarks on a narrative journey of Iran's rich cultural and historical past as a backdrop to the personal story she shares. The tale begins in the second millennium B.C. when Indo-European tribes settled in the Iranian plateau. Their descendants, the Medes, established the first Iranian nation, which later gave way to the expansive Persian Empire founded by Cyrus the Great in the sixth century B.C. Persia, as it was known to the Greeks, became a beacon of civilization, enduring numerous invasions by figures such as Alexander the Great and various Turkic and Mongolian conquerors. Despite these incursions, Iran's resilient culture and language absorbed and integrated the influences of its conquerors.

The 20th century marked a period of significant transformation for Iran. Under Reza Shah's rule, Iran witnessed modernization and a close interaction with the West, especially after oil was discovered, drawing foreign interest and intervention. During World War II, Iran's refusal to side against Germany led to an Allied occupation, with Reza Shah exiled and his son, Mohammad Reza Pahlavi, assuming power. In a pivotal moment in 1951, Prime Minister Mohammed Mossadeq nationalized the oil industry,

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prompting a British-led embargo and a subsequent CIA coup that reinstated the Shah's regime.

This set the stage for the Iranian Revolution of 1979, which forced the Shah into exile and fundamentally altered Iran's global perception. As an Iranian expatriate, Satrapi wrote "Persepolis" to challenge the monolithic image of Iran tied to extremism and violence. The graphic memoir serves as a testament to the dignity of the Iranian people, many of whom sacrificed their lives for freedom and dignity, suffered under authoritarian regimes, or were scattered around the world in search of safety.

Satrapi expresses a poignant reminder that while forgiveness is possible, forgetting is not. Her reflections aim to provide a nuanced perspective on a nation rich in history and culture but often overshadowed by a narrative of turmoil. The introduction emphasizes the importance of remembering the voices and lives that sought justice and peace, ensuring that the complexities of Iranian identity are acknowledged and honored in a global context.

The credits acknowledge the translations and collaborations that brought "Persepolis" to the English-speaking world, highlighting the collective effort behind its publication.

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Critical Thinking

Key Point: Remembering the Past to Honor Present and Future Voices

Critical Interpretation: Imagine standing on a rich tapestry woven with threads of history and personal stories that define who you are today. Just like Marjane Satrapi's 'Persepolis,' which transports you into the depths of Iran's historic and cultural narrative, this chapter reminds us of the crucial balance between forgiveness and the impossibility of forgetting. It inspires you to embrace your own past, with all its triumphs and struggles, to shape a compassionate and informed present and future. By valuing the stories and sacrifices of those who came before, you not only honor them but also build a legacy grounded in understanding, dignity, and resilience. Let the echoes of history empower you to respect every voice that has contributed to your journey, inspiring a tapestry interwoven with courage, identity, and hope for unity moving forward.



Chapter 30 Summary:

Introduction to Persepolis: A Historical and Personal Narrative

In the introduction to **Persepolis**, Marjane Satrapi sets the stage for her profound graphic memoir by providing a historical and cultural backdrop of Iran. She begins by tracing the ancient history of the region, highlighting that in the second millennium B.C., the Elam nation developed a civilization concurrently with Babylon. It was the Indo-European invaders who settled on the Iranian plateau, a land that derives its name from "Aryana Vaejo," meaning "the origin of the Aryans." These semi-nomadic tribes, notably the Medes and the Persians, established the first Iranian nation in the seventh century B.C. The Medes' dominance was eventually overturned by Cyrus the Great, who founded the expansive Persian Empire, one of the largest empires of ancient times.

For centuries, the land known to the Greeks as Persia was a hub of wealth that attracted numerous foreign invasions—from Alexander the Great to Arab, Turkish, and Mongolian forces. Despite these incursions, the Persian language and culture remained resilient, assimilating invaders and leaving a lasting imprint on them.

In the 20th century, Iran underwent rapid modernization under Reza Shah,

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who renamed the country Iran in 1935. The discovery of oil brought prosperity but also renewed external interest, particularly from Western powers like Great Britain. During World War II, Iran's strategic location again put it at the heart of international affairs. When Reza Shah's sympathies for Nazi Germany led to a declaration of neutrality, Allied forces invaded, leading to his exile. His son, Mohammad Reza Pahlavi, took the throne, becoming the Shah.

The post-war period saw Iran's political landscape drastically altered. In 1951, Prime Minister Mohammed Mossadeq nationalized the oil industry, prompting a British oil embargo and, eventually, a CIA-backed coup in 1953 that reinstated the Shah's authority after a brief exile. The Shah remained in power until the 1979 Islamic Revolution, when he fled Iran amidst widespread unrest.

Satrap, having lived much of her life in Iran, aims to counter the negative stereotypes of the country that emerged post-revolution, often characterized by Western media as a hotbed of fundamentalism and terrorism. Through **Persepolis**, she seeks to provide a nuanced portrayal of Iranian society, emphasizing that an entire nation should not be judged by the actions of a few extremists. She underscores the sacrifices of those who fought for freedom, those who perished in the Iran-Iraq War, and those who suffered under repressive regimes. Satrap signifies the importance of remembering their struggles and contributions, asserting that forgiveness should not come



at the cost of forgetting the past.

The translation of **Persepolis** involved numerous contributors, with Marjane Satrapi overseeing the translations alongside several others. The graphic memoir was originally released in French and later translated into English, receiving publication by Pantheon Books and Random House in North America. **Persepolis** comprises two parts and was initially published as separate volumes, eventually compiled into a complete edition. This introduction not only establishes the premise of the memoir but also Satrapi's intent to write a corrective narrative about her homeland, Iran.

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Chapter 31 Summary:

In "Persepolis," Marjane Satrapi offers a vivid, personal narrative set against the backdrop of Iran's complex history. The introduction delves into the rich historical tapestry of Iran, tracing its origins from the Indo-European settlers in the second millennium B.C. They named the vast plateau, Iran, derived from "Aryana Vaejo," meaning "the origin of the Aryans." These settlers were the ancestors of the Medes and Persians, with the Medes establishing the first Iranian nation in the seventh century B.C. This nation was later overtaken by Cyrus the Great, who then founded the Persian Empire in the sixth century B.C., one of the ancient world's largest empires. Although known as Persia by the Greeks, the country's official name was changed to Iran in 1935 by Reza Shah, father of Iran's last Shah.

Iran's strategic location and wealth became both a boon and a burden, inviting invasions and occupations by various forces, including Alexander the Great, Arabs, Turks, and Mongols. Despite these challenges, Persia's resilient culture absorbed the invaders, transforming many into Persians themselves. In the 20th century, under Reza Shah's rule, Iran embarked on modernization efforts, coinciding with the discovery of oil. This discovery brought Western interferences, notably from Great Britain, which had significant economic influence in Iran. During WWII, Iran's strategic decision to remain neutral despite pressures led to its occupation by Allied forces, resulting in Reza Shah's exile and the rise of his son, Mohammad



Reza Pahlavi, as the Shah.

The narrative shifts to the political upheaval of the 1950s when Iranian Prime Minister Mohammed Mossadeq nationalized the oil industry, provoking a British embargo. This conflict escalated to a CIA and British intelligence-led coup in 1953, which ousted Mossadeq and reinstated the Shah. The Shah retained power until 1979 when the Islamic Revolution forced him into exile, redefining Iran's identity in the global arena. This period often evokes associations with extremism, overshadowing Iran's heritage and the struggles of its people.

Marjane Satrapi, an Iranian native, presents "Persepolis" to challenge stereotypes and highlight the broader Iranian experience, including those who sacrificed their lives in the war against Iraq, suffered under repressive regimes, or were compelled to flee. Her memoir insists on remembering these truths, asserting that forgiveness must not erase the past. Satrapi's poignant storytelling, enriched by translations and artistic collaborations, aims to break misconceptions and honor Iran's enduring spirit. The book, published in the U.S. in two volumes by Pantheon Books, offers readers a comprehensive view of an often misunderstood nation, portrayed through Satrapi's compelling perspective.

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Chapter 32:

In the introduction to "Persepolis," Marjane Satrapi provides a sweeping overview of the rich historical tapestry of Iran, a nation whose roots stretch back to the second millennium B.C. It began with the civilization of the Elam and the Indo-European settlers, whose name for the region, "Aryana Vaejo," gave us the word "Iran." The Medes and later the Persians played significant roles in Iranian history, culminating in the establishment of the Persian Empire under Cyrus the Great in the sixth century B.C. Despite its eventual conquest by figures like Alexander the Great and domination by various foreign powers including Arabs, Turks, and Mongols, Iran's resilient Persian culture and language absorbed these influences, often assimilating the conquerors themselves into its rich tapestry.

The narrative shifts to the 20th century when Reza Shah initiated a program of modernization and westernization. This era coincided with the discovery of oil, drawing the West into Iranian affairs, particularly Great Britain, which wielded considerable economic influence. World War II brought military occupation by the Allies, pressuring Reza Shah, a German sympathizer, into exile, leaving his son, Mohammad Reza Pahlavi, to rule as the Shah.

Iran's political landscape took a dramatic turn in 1951 with Prime Minister Mohammed Mossadeq's nationalization of the oil industry. Great Britain retaliated with an embargo, prompting a CIA-led coup in 1953, returning the



Shah to power. The Shah's reign persisted until 1979 when the Islamic revolution forced him from the throne. In the West, Iran became synonymous with fundamentalism and terrorism, a perception Satrapi seeks to correct with "Persepolis," aiming to illuminate the complexities and experiences of its people, including those who resisted repression and

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Chapter 33 Summary:

Introduction: The Historical Tapestry of Iran

In the second millennium B.C., the Iranian plateau became home to Indo-European settlers whose descendents, the Medes and the Persians, shaped the region's history. The Medes founded the first Iranian nation in the seventh century B.C., but it was later overshadowed by the Persian Empire under Cyrus the Great in the sixth century B.C. This empire emerged as one of the world's largest and was known as Persia, a name used until 1935 when Reza Shah Pahlavi rebranded it as Iran, derived from "Aryana Vaejo," meaning "the origin of the Aryans."

Iran's abundant wealth and strategic location made it a target for invaders throughout history, including Alexander the Great and later, Arab, Turkish, and Mongolian forces. Despite frequent foreign domination, Persia's language and culture proved resilient, absorbing and assimilating these outside influences.

The twentieth century marked a turning point for Iran, beginning with Reza Shah's efforts to modernize and westernize the nation. This era also saw the advent of oil wealth, which attracted Western powers, notably Great Britain, who sought to influence Iran's economy. During World War II, Reza Shah's



neutral stance led to Allied occupation, his subsequent exile, and the rise of his son, Mohammad Reza Shah Pahlavi.

The 1950s brought political turmoil when Prime Minister Mohammed Mossadeq nationalized Iran's oil industry, provoking British embargoes. In 1953, a CIA-British orchestrated coup ousted Mossadeq, reinstating the Shah, who ruled until the 1979 Islamic Revolution forced him into exile. This event shifted global perceptions of Iran, linking it predominantly with fundamentalism and terrorism.

In "Persepolis," Marjane Satrapi challenges these stereotypes, drawing on her life in Iran to offer a more nuanced perspective. She argues against the misconception that an entire nation can be judged by the actions of extremists. Satrapi endeavors to honor those Iranians who suffered and sacrificed for freedom, resisted oppressive regimes, and endured the Iran-Iraq War. Her work stands as a testament to remembering and understanding Iran's rich, complex history and culture, beyond the shadows of political turmoil.

Acknowledgments and Publication Notes

"Persepolis" was translated into English in two parts by Mattias Ripa and Blake Ferris, under the supervision of Satrapi and Carol Bernstein, with

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lettering by Celine Merrien and Eve Deluze. The complete work has been published in the US and Canada, reflecting Satrapi's commitment to sharing her story with a global audience. With heartfelt thanks extended to Anjali Singh and other collaborators, "Persepolis" remains a powerful exploration of identity, culture, and resilience.

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Critical Thinking

Key Point: Resilience Amidst Adversity

Critical Interpretation: In 'The Complete Persepolis,' Marjane Satrapi highlights the resilience of Iran and its people in persisting through centuries of invasion, occupation, and political upheaval. This chapter traverses the rich, tumultuous history of Iran, illuminating the idea that a nation's true strength lies in its ability to endure and thrive amidst adversity. As you immerse yourself in Marjane's narrative, you discover that this tenacity is not only a hallmark of Iranian heritage but also a universal human trait. Embracing resilience as a guiding principle might inspire you to navigate your own challenges with courage and determination. Just as Iran's language and culture endured through millennia despite external forces, you too can cultivate your inner strength to persist and grow even when circumstances become daunting.

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Chapter 34 Summary:

Introduction Summary of "Persepolis" by Marjane Satrapi

In the second millennium B.C., the Iranian plateau was named by Indo-European invaders and became known as "Iran," derived from "Aryana Vaejo," meaning "the origin of the Aryans." The Medes and the Persians, descendants of these early settlers, significantly shaped the region. By the seventh century B.C., the Medes established Iran's first nation, only for it to be conquered by Cyrus the Great, who founded the vast Persian Empire in the sixth century B.C. Under various invasions from Greeks, Arabs, Turks, and Mongols, the Persian language and culture remained resilient, with the invaders often assimilating into the Iranian way of life.

The 20th century saw Reza Shah aiming to modernize and westernize Iran amidst newfound oil wealth, bringing Western influence, especially from Great Britain. During World War II, Iran's strategic position led to British, Soviet, and American occupation after Reza Shah's refusal to ally against Germany. He was succeeded by his son Mohammad Reza Pahlavi. In 1951, Prime Minister Mohammed Mossadeq nationalized the Iranian oil industry, prompting an embargo by Great Britain and a CIA-facilitated coup in 1953, restoring the Shah's power. The Shah ruled until 1979, fleeing during the Islamic Revolution, marking a shift in global perceptions of Iran towards



themes of extremism and terrorism.

Author Marjane Satrapi, an Iranian expatriate, sought to counter this narrative through "Persepolis," emphasizing that the actions of a few do not represent the entire Iranian populace. She highlights the sacrifices of Iranians who suffered under oppressive regimes, died in the Iran-Iraq war, and were forced into exile.

Satrapi underscores the importance of remembering these injustices, emphasizing forgiveness but cautioning against forgetfulness. Through "Persepolis," she aims to humanize Iran and preserve the memory and dignity of its people. This graphic memoir, translated and published internationally, serves as a cultural touchstone, challenging stereotypes and offering a nuanced understanding of Iranian history and identity.

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Chapter 35 Summary:

Introduction Summary

In the second millennium B.C., an Indo-European group settled on what is now the Iranian plateau, giving it the name "Aryana Vaejo," meaning "the origin of the Aryans," which later became Iran. These settlers were the ancestors of the Medes and Persians. The Medes founded Iran's first nation in the 7th century B.C., but it was Cyrus the Great who, in the 6th century B.C., established the Persian Empire—one of the largest in ancient history. Despite frequent invasions from figures like Alexander the Great and various Arab, Turkish, and Mongolian groups, Persian culture remained resilient, often assimilating its conquerors.

In the 20th century, Iran's narrative pivoted significantly. Reza Shah pursued modernization and Westernization, but the discovery of oil attracted foreign interest, particularly from Great Britain. During World War II, Iran's neutrality led to its occupation by the Allies, resulting in Reza Shah's exile and the rise of his son, Mohammad Reza Pahlavi, as the Shah. In 1951, Prime Minister Mohammed Mossadeq nationalized Iran's oil industry, prompting a British embargo and a 1953 CIA-orchestrated coup, which reinstated the Shah's power. His reign continued until the Islamic Revolution in 1979 forced his departure.

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Marjane Satrapi, the author of "Persepolis," seeks to challenge prevalent stereotypes associated with Iran, often linked in the Western narrative to fundamentalism and terrorism. She aims to highlight the complexity of Iranian society and honor those who have suffered or perished under various oppressive regimes, or who were compelled to leave Iran. Satrapi's motivation for writing stems from her desire for a nuanced representation of her homeland and its people, advocating that one can forgive but should not forget past injustices.

Acknowledgments

The translation of "Persepolis" was managed by Mattias Ripa and Blake Ferris, with oversight by Marjane Satrapi and Carol Bernstein. Celine Merrien and Eve Deluze handled lettering. Appreciation is extended to a supportive network including Anjali Singh, L'Association, and various French creatives. "Persepolis," originally published in two volumes in the U.S., retains all rights under L'Association, France, and is available through Pantheon Books and Random House in North America.

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Critical Thinking

Key Point: Resilience of Cultural Identity

Critical Interpretation: Persepolis imparts a vital lesson on the resilience of cultural identity amidst adversity. Just as the Iranian people have steadfastly maintained their cultural richness despite centuries of invasions and upheaval, you can navigate life's challenges by anchoring yourself in your authenticity and heritage. Marjane's narrative encourages you to embrace your own cultural narratives, understanding that your history and identity are powerful sources of strength. Her story inspires you to persevere in the face of external pressures and to cherish and protect the unique qualities that define who you are.

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Chapter 36:

Introduction to Persepolis

The story of Iran is one of ancient civilization, geographical significance, and rich culture, intertwined with invasions and influences from diverse forces throughout history. In the second millennium B.C., the Iranian plateau, named from "Ayryana Vaejo" or "the origin of the Aryans," became home to Indo-European settlers. These settlers, known as the Medes and the Persians, laid the foundation for the first Iranian nation in the seventh century B.C., which later evolved into one of the largest ancient empires under Cyrus the Great—the Persian Empire.

Despite numerous invasions—from Alexander the Great to Turkish and Mongolian conquerors—Iran's cultural identity, particularly its language, remained resilient and influential. By the 20th century, Iran, previously known as Persia until 1935, entered a transformative phase. Under Reza Shah, the country endeavored to modernize and embrace Western ideas, but concurrently, newly discovered oil reserves attracted substantial Western economic interests, leading to significant international influence, particularly by Great Britain.

World War II saw Iran occupied by Allied forces after Reza Shah's

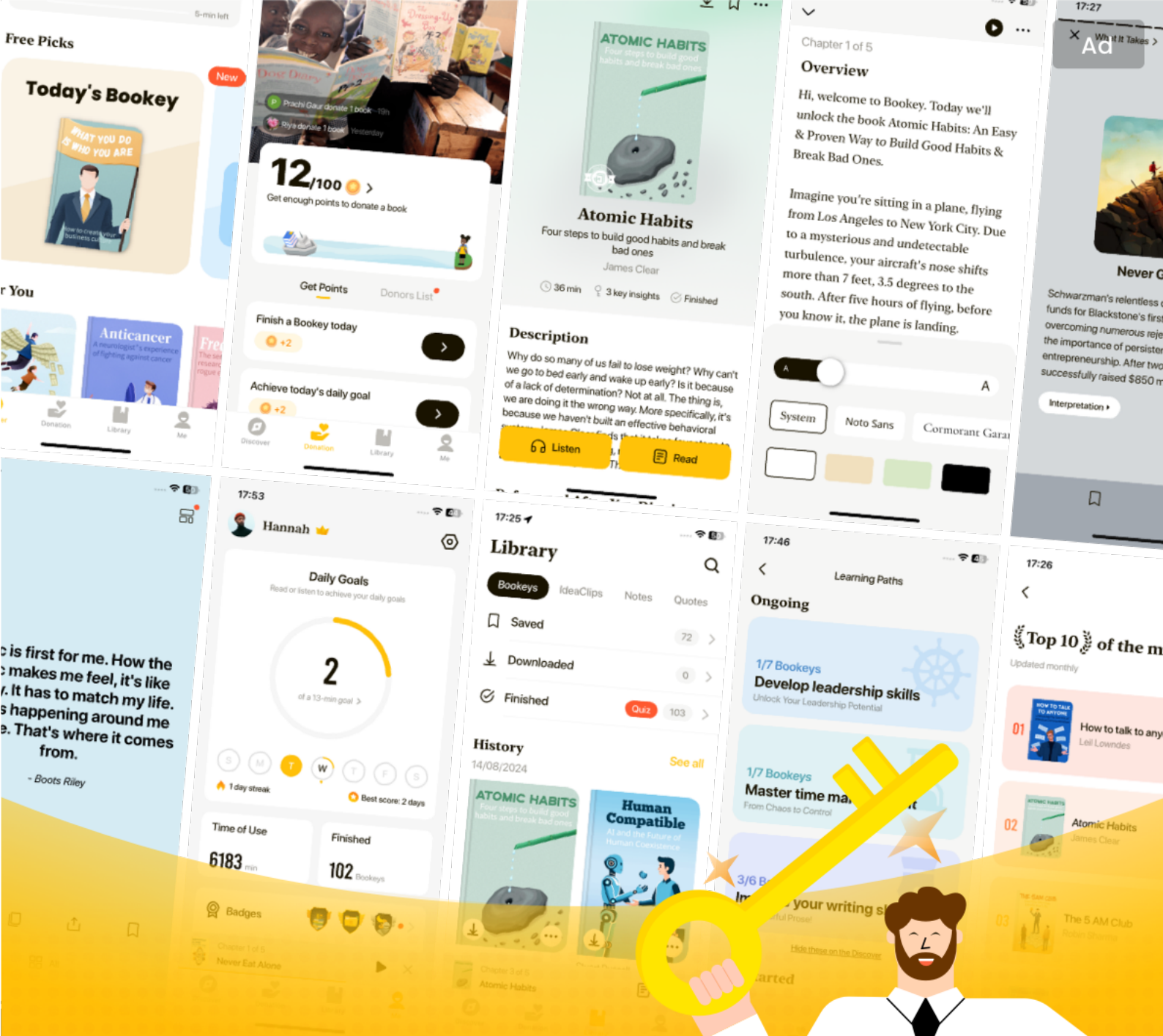


pro-German sympathies clashed with their interests, eventually leading to his exile and the ascension of his son, Mohammad Reza Pahlavi. The political landscape shifted again in 1951 when Prime Minister Mohammed Mossadeq nationalized the oil industry, prompting a British-organized embargo. A CIA-supported coup in 1953 resulted in Mossadeq's overthrow,

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Chapter 37 Summary:

Introduction Summary of Persepolis

Persepolis opens with an exploration of Iran's rich and tumultuous history, tracing its roots back to the second millennium B.C. when the Indo-European tribes, known as Aryans, settled the vast Iranian plateau, giving the region its name—derived from "Aryana Vaejo," meaning "the origin of the Aryans." Among their descendants were the Medes and Persians, with the Medes forming Iran's earliest known nation in the seventh century B.C., later overtaken by Cyrus the Great, who laid the foundation for the expansive Persian Empire.

The narrative moves through centuries of history shaped by invasions and cultural tenacity. Iran, known as Persia until 1935 when Reza Shah Pahlavi requested international recognition of the country's native name, Iran, became a focal point for conquerors. Despite foreign rule by figures like Alexander the Great and aggressors from Arabic, Turkish, and Mongolian origins, Persian culture and language remained resilient, influencing even those who conquered them.

In the 20th century, Reza Shah's efforts to modernize Iran were overshadowed by the discovery of oil, leading to significant Western interest



and intervention, most notably from Great Britain. This influence escalated during World War II, as Allied forces occupied Iran to secure it against Nazi Germany, leading to Reza Shah's exile and his son Mohammad Reza Pahlavi becoming the Shah. The post-war era saw political turmoil with Prime Minister Mohammed Mossadeq's nationalization of the oil industry, prompting economic embargoes and a CIA-backed coup in 1953 that solidified the Shah's power until the 1979 Islamic Revolution.

As the introduction reflects on these events, Marjane Satrapi, the author, underscores her motivation to write *Persepolis*: to offer an authentic portrayal of Iran beyond the stereotypes of extremism often portrayed in media. She emphasizes the importance of remembering those who fought for freedom and those who suffered under oppressive regimes or fled their homeland. Satrapi's narrative seeks to preserve the memory of the Iranian people's resilience and sacrifice, advocating forgiveness without forgetting.

The introduction sets the stage for *Persepolis* as a deeply personal and historical account, supported by translations and contributions from various individuals credited at the end. This foundation highlights the significance of sharing Iran's complex narrative with a global audience through Satrapi's graphic memoir.



Critical Thinking

Key Point: Resilience in the Face of Adversity

Critical Interpretation: Imagine standing amidst the rich tapestry of history, where your culture and identity are constantly challenged yet unwaveringly strong. Marjane Satrapi's retelling of Iran's past—and its people's tenacity against centuries of invasions—invites you to find inspiration in resilience. Embrace the knowledge that even when times are challenging, like the Aryans, Medes, and Persians, you too can preserve your unique essence and dignity. As you navigate life's trials, be inspired to stand firm with resilience and cultural pride, fostering a spirit that refuses to be subdued by any adversity.

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Chapter 38 Summary:

In the introduction to "Persepolis," Marjane Satrapi sets the stage by providing a brief historical overview of Iran, tracing its roots back to the second millennium B.C. when Indo-European settlers named the expansive plateau "Aryana Vaejo," later known as Iran. The Medes, descendants of these settlers, founded the first Iranian nation, which was eventually taken over by Cyrus the Great, establishing the vast Persian Empire. Throughout history, despite invasions by figures like Alexander the Great and various others including Arabs, Turks, and Mongols, Iran's rich culture and language endured, often assimilating the conquerors into its fold.

The narrative leaps forward to the 20th century, marked by significant changes under Reza Shah, who sought to modernize Iran and shifted the country's official name from Persia to Iran in 1935. The discovery of oil ushered in newfound wealth but also foreign influence, especially from Britain. During World War II, Iran's geopolitical stance led to Allied occupation and Reza Shah's exile, making way for his son, Mohammad Reza Pahlavi. The political climate saw further turmoil with Prime Minister Mohammed Mossadeq's nationalization of oil—a move countered by British-led sanctions and a CIA-backed coup, restoring the Shah to power until the 1979 Islamic Revolution.

Satrapi's personal insight into Iran reveals a nation far more complex than

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the singular narrative of fundamentalism often portrayed in the media. As an Iranian, she underscores the importance of remembering those who have suffered or perished under repressive regimes, in wars like the one against Iraq, or had to flee their homeland. Her memoir, "Persepolis," thus emerges from a desire to challenge stereotypes and honor those who fought for freedom in Iran.

Additionally, the publication details reveal that "The Complete Persepolis" comprises two parts, originally published in the United States as separate volumes. The English translations were undertaken by Mattias Ripa and Blake Ferris, with Satrapi herself supervising the translations. The acknowledgment section thanks key individuals and organizations who contributed to the creation and distribution of the book. Through these acknowledgments, readers understand the collaborative effort behind bringing Satrapi's poignant narrative to an international audience.

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Chapter 39 Summary:

Introduction Summary:

The roots of modern Iran trace back to the second millennium B.C., when the region became home to Indo-European invaders who settled on the vast Iranian plateau. These settlers are recognized as the ancestors of the Medes and Persians. The Medes formed the first Iranian nation before being overthrown by Cyrus the Great, who established the expansive Persian Empire in the sixth century B.C. Known as Persia until 1935, when Reza Shah requested the use of "Iran," this culturally and geographically significant nation has been a target for conquest throughout history by figures such as Alexander the Great and various Arab, Turkish, and Mongolian forces. Despite these invasions, Persian culture and language have retained their strength, often assimilating invading cultures.

In the 20th century, Iran's discovery of oil and Reza Shah's attempts at modernization brought about Western influence, especially from Great Britain. The country's World War II-era neutrality, expressed by Reza Shah's affinity for Germany, led to an Allied occupation, forcing the Shah into exile and leading to the ascent of his son, Mohammad Reza Pahlavi. Iran's oil industry nationalization under Prime Minister Mohammed Mossadeq in 1951 prompted a British-led embargo and a CIA-backed coup that



eventually restored the Shah's power in 1953.

The Shah's reign persisted until the 1979 Islamic revolution, which altered international perceptions of Iran, framing it within the contexts of fundamentalism and terrorism. Marjane Satrapi, having lived a significant portion of her life in Iran, challenges these stereotypes in her graphic novel "Persepolis." She aims to highlight the dichotomy between the actions of a few extremists and the broader, often forgotten narratives of those who defended freedom or suffered under various repressive regimes. Satrapi's memoir serves both as a form of personal and historical testament — forgiving but urging the preservation of memory.

Credit and Publication Information:

"Persepolis" has been translated primarily by Mattias Ripa and Blake Ferris, under the supervision of Marjane Satrapi and Carol Bernstein. The lettering was done by Celine Merrien and Eve Deluze. Published by Pantheon Books, a division of Random House in the United States, "The Complete Persepolis" was initially published in two parts in 2003 and 2004, respectively. The book is a significant cultural artifact that uses Satrapi's personal experiences to illuminate Iran's complex historical narrative and contemporary global perceptions.

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